Strictly confl 902(3)

On the reversion of Mr. Banerji to Madras service (i) the vacancy in the Council would in the ordinary course go to Mr. K.R. Srinivasiengar, Revenue Commissioner, who is the senior among the Heads of Departments of the general service and who has already acted as Member on a previous occasion for six months.

Another alternative, assuming that the vacancy is to be filled up and is to go to a Member of the service, would be (ii) to bring Mr. K.S. Chamrasekhara Aiyar back to the Council as First Member.

The other alternatives are to take the opportunity (iii) to reduce the strength of the Council to two Members or (iv) to appoint a non-official Member.

Alternative (iii) would satisfy the public demand for economy and would be appreciated as evidence of the Government's earnest desire to effect all possible retrenchments. I should have unhesitatingly recommended this course, but for the recent decision to have one Member to deal solely with the Iron Works Scheme and allied Departments. The distribution of all other Departments between the Dewan and the only other Member would involve a considerable strain on them unless steps are taken at the same time to effect a very substantial measure of devolution of powers to Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners.

The (iv)th alternative would also give some satisfaction to the public, but not probably to the same extent as the one just discussed. The fact that <u>any</u> selection will fail to satisfy <u>both</u> the two main divisions of the population and will to that extent cause dissatisfaction to one or the other of these divisions will have to be borne in mind. Such an

appointment will

not be accepted as a substantial instalment of constitutional reform; but if at the time the appointment is announced some tentative scheme of reform is also submitted to the public, at least for discussion, it will to a great extent appeal to the people. As between (iii) and (iv), the saving under (iii) would be about - - - Rs.32,000 per annum (including cost of establishment and travelling expenses) unless the non-official Councillor agrees to serve on a lower salary.

Under alternative (ii) there will be two vacancies in the Chief Court with Sir Leslie Miller leaving next July. Of these, one may go ~~to one of the~~ District Judges and for the other, the Chief Judge's place, we should have to import some one from outside. We cannot get any practising lawyer of high reputation for the salary we are able to offer. It would be necessary to get some one from British service who has just retired or is on the verge of retirement. Two names have occurred to me. The first is Mr. Venugopal Chetty, I.C.S., District Judge of Nellore who is getting Rs.3,000. He is a senior Madras Civilian of 29 years' [redacted] standing. The other is Mr. F.X. D'Souza, a senior Bombay - Civilian of about 25 years' standing whose position is that of District Judge. He has been on furlough in Bangalore and would like to have an appointment here. His present pay is Rs.2,500. A strong Chief Court is essential in the interests of the administration and if either of these gentlemen or some other of equal capacity would agree to retire from British service and accept the Chief Judge'ship on a pay of Rs.2,500, the experiment is worth the trial.

The translation of Mr. Chandrasekhara Aiyar to the Chief Court would however cause some dissatisfaction to officers in the general service as it would block legitimate expectations of such officers. It would also perhaps be more expensive than alternative (i) as a place has to be found for Mr. V.R. Thyagaraja Iyer on the completion of his work as Census Superintendent about July next. - - -

Mr. Chandrasekhara Aiyar is in many respects preferable to Mr. Srinivasiengar in the Council; but he has had no executive experience whatever. The fact that the other two Members also have had no District experience constitutes a weakness in the Council and Mr. Chandrasekhara Aiyar's appointment would accentuate this.

Alternative (iii), that is, not filling up the vacancy has the advantage of not committing us finally to any course. If this is adopted as a tentative arrangement, the distribution of portfolios may be as follows:-

Dewan.	To take over Education and Police from the First Member's portfolios and Agriculture from the Second Member.
Mr. P. Raghavendra Rao,	To have all Technical Departments including Public Works and the Iron Scheme and allied Departments.
Mr. Mir Humza Hussein,	To take over Medical and Sanitary from the Second Member.

If alternative (iv) is adopted, the non-official Member may have Medical, Sanitary, Agriculture, Local and Municipal Funds, and Minor Departments like Prisons, Gardens, Press and Stationery, Meteorology, etc.

Mr. Humza Hussein will take over Education from the First Member's portfolio, the Dewan will take over Police and the rest, viz., Technical Departments and the Iron Works and allied Departments would go to the (present) Second Member.

The choice of alternatives depends to some extent also on the selection of the Member for the charge of the Iron Works and allied Departments. Except under alternative (i) Mr.P.Raghavendra Rao will have to be the Member in charge of these.